What is Bushkiller?

**Plant Type:** perennial vine

**Family:** Vitaceae (grape)

**Form/Size:** twining vine, may attain heights greater than 12m

**Leaves:** pedately compound, alternate, serrate (toothed), 5 leaflets, tendrils opposite from each leaf

**Flowers:** in umbels, salmon/orange, cup-shaped, blooms in late summer

**Fruit:** berry, black or white, each containing 2-4 triangular seeds

**NOTE:** no fruiting has been documented in North America (apparently sterile)

**Means of Spread:** sexual reproduction not observed in North America; vegetative reproduction by root fragments and adventitious shoots produced when roots cut/disturbed

**Similar Native Species:** *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (Virginia creeper) has palmately compound leaves, turning red in fall; yellow/green flowers, blooms in early-mid summer; berry, green turning blue in fall

Where did Bushkiller come from?

**Origin:** Southeast Asia, Australia

**North American Introduction:** first record is from LA, 1964

**Reason:** unclear, possibly ornamental

Where am I likely to find Bushkiller?

**Habitat Type:** tolerates shade and full sun, damp deciduous riparian areas, developed and cultivated areas, possibly in gardens

**Distribution in SC:** none

**Distribution in NC:** Forsyth Co.

**Non-native Distribution:** LA, TX, MS, NC

Why is Bushkiller a problem?

**Environment:** rapid growth rate; blocks sunlight by climbing over other vegetation; may break tree/shrub limbs with weight; may threaten native Gulf Coast plant communities
FRIGHTENING FACTS
South Carolina and North Carolina Exotic Plant Pest Councils

Economy: no information; possible impacts to forest industry

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND BUSHKILLER?
Report: Take a photo, GPS location if possible, report the observation to EDDMapS: http://www.se-eppc.org/ (location, size of infestation, etc.). In SC: Send digital photo to John Nelson at the USC Herbarium: plantman@herbarium.org for verification.
Control: limited information available; little success with herbicides; digging/pulling may be an option, but all stem and root fragments must be removed
Disposal: proper disposal of rhizomes and root fragments is important to prevent new infestations, do not compost

CURRENT LISTINGS:
Federal: none
State Weed Lists: none
SC EPPC Ranking: Watch B - vines
NC EPPC Ranking: Watch List - vines

LEARN MORE!
Invasive.org (images): http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=13557
USDA Plants Database: http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=CAJA7
Invasive Plant Atlas of the MidSouth (IPAMS): http://www.gri.msstate.edu/ipams/Species.php?SName=Cayratia+japonica&CName=
Bugwood Wiki (Invasipedia): http://wiki.bugwood.org/Cayratia_japonica
Non-Native Woody Plants of Arkansas (Henderson State University): http://www.hsu.edu/default.aspx?id=6367

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